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**AFL Calls for 75-Cent Minimum Wage;
Urges Broadened Coverage Under FLSA**

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor came out strongly in favor of increasing the minimum wage, but it also urged that no other amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act to broaden its coverage be approved by Congress.

In testimony before a Senate committee, Walter J. Mason, AFL national legislative representative urged that the act be amended to include Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah and denounced the minimum wage act as "a piece of legislation by Senator Russell of Minnesota."

Mason declared the bill itself would "create a series of regional differentials in the setting of minimum wages, the provision exempting children on vacations from the act, and the inclusion of the complicated, vague terminology defining the regular rate of pay."

Mason reviewed the 10-year history of the act, pointing out that during which time no change has been made in the statutory minimum wage. He said that in the past decade, he said, have weakened its wage and hour standards or limited its scope.

The AFL spokesman denounced clearly that over the 75-cent minimum it is now fighting.

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"3. The child labor provisions must be strengthened by a flat prohibition

against the employment of oppressive child labor in all industries affecting commerce. The bill would prohibit such restrictive proposals in the Ball Bill as the proposal to exempt salaried employees earning over \$160 a week, the provision permitting the use of child labor in certain industries, and the provision for raising wages to new employees. The addition of three new tests to guide industry and labor provisions of the act, S. 2386, while improving these provisions, would at the same time withdraw the protection of the act from certain groups of child laborers. S. 2062 would clarify the language of the present law and close the existing loopholes in it. S. 2386 would create a new section in the act to emphasize the real issue by vague language.

AFL Unions Supporting Cooperatives:

Meany Cites Increased Activity In 1947

In a special statement prepared for the Cooperative League News Service, Mr. Meany said that AFL mem-

In his report, Mr. Maany declared that the greatest interest and activity on the part of the AFI membership

was in the Atlantic states and New England, where the federal labor has worked closely with Eastern Co-operatives, Inc., on the development of food stores and increasing membership of existing co-operatives. In Pennsylvania, outstanding work has been done by the State Federation of La-

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The conference is the highest authority of the ILO, a specialised agency of the United Nations with headquarters here.

The treaty would be subject to ratification or acceptance by each of

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